Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 3, line 18, with the following rewritten sentence:

Fig. 1 is a simplified view of the lighting rod from the side, with part of the casing removed, showing the normal state; ~~and~~

Please add the following new sentence after the sentence ending on page 3, line 19:

Fig. 1A shows a piezo-electric mechanism; and

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The operating member 10 comprises a button 11 which has a bore 12 containing a piezo-electric mechanism comprising two elements 13, 14. The button 11 is urged into the upwards position, i.e., the position shown, by a spring 15 which engages in a bore (not shown) in the button and against a stop 52 formed as part of the half-shell 51. The piezo spring ~~(not shown)~~13A also provides spring biasing force on the operating button 11. In an alternative embodiment which is not shown it is possible to provide the operating button 11 without its own spring 15 but in a way which relies entirely on the biasing force of the piezo spring ~~(not shown)~~13A.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The button 11 can be manually depressed against the force of the spring 15, and the piezo spring 13A, moving the piezo-electric mechanism 13-14 downwards. A lever 19 is located as shown, pivoted on a pivot bearing 53 formed as part of the casing 50. This lever 19 engages the valve 41 of the gas container 40. Downward movement of the piezo-electric mechanism 13-14 rotates the lever 19 anti-clockwise, so operating the valve 41 and releasing a

flow of gas from the ~~bottle~~container 40. This gas flows through a tube to the end of the nozzle assembly 45.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The movement of the piezo-electric mechanism 13-14 is limited by a stop 54 formed as part of the casing 50. Further pressure on the button results in compression of the two elements 13 and 14 of the piezo-electric mechanism 13-14 together and the generation of a spark at the end of the nozzle assembly 45. The compression of the piezo-electric elements occurs after the release of the gas flow, so the gas flow should have reached the end of the nozzle assembly by the time the spark is produced. An example of the end of the nozzle assembly shown in Fig. 1 is conventional.